FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol VI No 082 *26 April 1979*

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18TH ECLA PLENARY SESSION CONTINUES IN LA PAZ

Oil Prices; Protectionism

PY250125 Paris AFP in Spanish 2306 GMT 23 Apr 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 23 Apr (AFP)--Rafael Castillo, foreign minister of Guatemala and president of the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA], stated here today that there is "an imperative need for joint international action by developing nations that import oil." He added: "We must urgently integrate efforts at the regional level to develop a global energy policy which would accelerate the search for new energy sources, as well as the development and exchange of initiatives in this field." "We believe that the serious impact that the constant increase of petroleum prices has on Latin American nations is of great importance," Castillo told the delegates attending the 18th session of ECLA here.

The Guatemalan foreign minister emphasized the urgent need to think "seriously about the advisability of developing nations forming a front as oil buyers to deal directly with producing nations and obtain better prices." He stated: "Today more than ever Latin America needs to be aware of its role in the world, not just as a mere spectator, but as an actor who has a lot to offer, and to demand the support of UN ideals." "We believe we need something more than new economic formulas, because not only are economic structures changing, but also human values that are the basis for universal coexistence," Castillo said.

The Guatemalan foreign minister presented a four-point outline of action for Latin American nations, which he submitted for consideration by the ECLA assembly. The points are:

1. Sustained economic growth with a just distribution of income.

2. Price stability to avoid fluctuations.

3. Productive efficiency to take advantage of imported technology.

4. Equitable handling of our raw materials on international markets.

Castillo also stated that "it is necessary to implement national, regional and international measures to allow us to confront the growing protectionism of industrialized nations and to try to take advantage of Latin America's negotiating power."

In addition, Venezuela Planning Minister Ricardo Martinez said that his country "supports a new international economic order in which all the world's nations can negotiate on the basis of just dialog and equitable treatment, especially with regard to raw materials." Martinez also spoke at the inaugural session after the speech by the president of ECLA.

Further on Oil Prices

PY250121 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2227 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Apr (LATIN)--Five Central American nations today proposed the establishment of a Latin American front for defense against price hikes of oil and other hydrocarbon energy products. The proposal, made by the Guatemalan delegation, was supported by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, and presented to the 18th session of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

The proposal expressed the need to establish a defense mechanism for the majority of Latin American nations now importing oil and derivatives to confront the continuing increases in the prices of these products. It adds that the negative impact of this phenomenon promoted by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which has two members in this region, Venezuela and Ecuador, makes the achievement of development goals in Latin America more difficult.

U.S., European Trade Practices

PY251227 Paris AFP in Spanish 2029 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Text] La Paz, 24 Apr (AFP)--The United States and the European Economic Community [EEC] are exporting their financial crises to Latin America, according to statements made here today by the foreign minister of Guatemala and president of the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA], Rafael Castillo, and Uruguayan Enrique Iglesias, executive secretary of the ECLA, in their speeches before the assembly.

Castillo, the ECLA president, and Iglesias, its executive secretary, denounced "the export of crises in industrialized nations to Latin America by means of the price increase of manufactured goods sold to our countries owing to the increase in oil prices."

ECLA experts insisted that the majority of Latin American nations are not oil self-sufficient and have to pay the price increases of liquid hydrocarbons decided by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC], whose members include Venezuela and Ecuador. "Latin American nations such as Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Cuba and the Dominican Republic suffer the increased oil prices on one side, and the price increase of products imported from the industrialized world on the other," they said. In addition, during the past 3 years, the price of transporting merchandise has increased an average of 60 percent, raising the price of the greater part of regional foreign trade, the experts added.

Industrialized nations impose the increase in oil prices they suffer in their own economies on the cost of their exports. In this way, the greater part of the region's nations have increased their trade deficits with the "First World," said one of the delegates to the ECLA meeting.

Iglesias suggested in his speech that industrialized nations examine their present policies toward developing nations in order to seek dialog which would permit solutions to these problems.

Another of the points brought up by the ECLA's executive secretary is the search for solutions at the regional level that would increase Latin America's power as a whole. "For Latin Americans, collective self-sufficiency is integration; but we believe we have just now started on the path to regional integration," he added.

The foreign minister of Guatemala supported the initiative by the president of Costa Rica to organize nations importing oil in order to establish a dialog with exporting countries.

Rodrigo Carazo, during his recent tour through Central America, was able to find support for his idea of establishing an OPIP (organization of petroleum importing countries).

Criticism against industrialized nations has become a source of everyday analysis during the present ECLA conference.

Disagreement on Development Policy

PY251806 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1218 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Enrique Iglesias, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA], stressed while opening the first plenary session on the ministerial level of the 18th ECLA session period that development should benefit the large and impoverished majority sectors in Latin America that should stand essentially united in the international economic community. The plenary meeting was presided over by Planning and Coordination Minister Gary Prado.

Commission No 1 has planned to finish its work today with the approval of its last draft of a resolution regarding development strategy. There remain, however, disagreements between industrialized and developing countries, and a work group has therefore been formed, composed of Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, the United States and France, to discuss the wording of some controversial paragraphs, particularly regarding protectionism, minimum conditions for the use of International Monetary Fund credits and other long-term financial measures.

L.A. NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION ORGANIZATION MEETS IN QUITO

Opening Addresses

PA250429 Paris AFP in Spanish 0145 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 24 Apr (AFP)--Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso has inaugurated the sixth conference of the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America [OPANAL], the purpose of which is to discuss the basic steps which the continent is taking to prevent the use of nuclear energy for weapons.

Ayala mentioned the Tlatelolco treaty, signed some years ago in Mexico, stating that this document "is a commitment which reflects the Latin American continent's pacifist conscience as well as the continent's natural need to survive." The Ecuadorean foreign minister said that the Latin American Continent was "the first to negotiate a treaty designed to eliminate the threat of a nuclear conflagration in our hemisphere."

He said that the "specter of war emerges from the shadows of an international reality which is not free of rivalry, ambition and suspicion." Ayala Lasso said that the mere possession of atomic weapons could lead to aggression by error, by accident or by the criminal madness of which history has not been free. The foreign minister said that the denuclearization treaty is "one of Latin America's most effective contributions to political philosophy and international law."

The Ecuadorean foreign minister expressed gratification with the fact that countries that have the atomic bomb, such as the United States, the USSR, Great Britain, France and China, have subscribed to the protocol of the Tlatelolco treaty.

This fact, Ayala said, guarantees that the sovereign decision of the Latin American nations to free the region from nuclear weapons will be respected.

Rafael Jose Neri, outgoing president of the organization, Venezuelan ambassador to Mexico and delegate to Ecuador, also spoke at the meeting attended by 20 member countries and observers from the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

He noted the importance of the conclave, which will not only permit the analysis of denuclearization problems but will encourage the integration of the Latin American countries.

OPANAL Secretary General Hector Gros Espinel said that the meeting is "a reaffirmation of the Latin American nature because all the countries on the continent share the principles and the objectives of the Tlatelolco treaty."

"Nobody doubts," Gros Espinel said, "the importance and usefulness of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, not only in the field of medicine, but also in the field of agriculture and especially for the production of electrical energy."

PRC Delegate Speech

PA260235 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0043 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 25 Apr (EFE)--Only by the complete destruction of nuclear weapons and clear and effective prohibition of their manufacture will it be possible to truly free humanity of the threat of a nuclear war. This statement was made today by Liu Pu, the PRC delegate who is an observer to the sixth session of the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America (OPANAL), which began in this capital yesterday.

Liu Pu said that the government and people of China have always advocated real disarmament and have resolutely supported the just position of the peoples of the world who are vigorously demanding that the superpowers carry out nuclear disarmament and end the nuclear threat. "Repeatedly, for many years, we have urged the countries of the world to declare that they will prohibit and completely, definitely, thoroughly and resolutely destroy nuclear weapons," Liu Pu said in his speech during the second session of the conference, adding: "In other words, to declare that they will not use, export, import, manufacture, test or store those weapons and will destroy all existing nuclear weapons."

The Chinese delegate noted that his country has proposed the holding of a worldwide summit meeting to discuss the problem and attempt to achieve a total ban on and complete destruction of this type of weapon.

"In addition to having repeatedly declared that at no time and under no circumstances will we be the first country to use nuclear weapons," Liu Pu said, "we have invariably and resolutely supported the demands of small- and medium-sized countries that denuclearized peace zones be established." Liu Pu said that on the basis of these principles, the PRC made an official commitment to support the denuclearization of Latin America by signing Protocol No 2 of the Tlatelolco treaty.

He said, however, that both the nuclear arms race and the dispute between the superpowers to be dominant in this area have intensified, which is a threat to peace and the security of nonnuclear countries and denuclearized zones. "For Latin America to be truly a denuclearized zone," Liu Pu said, "it is necessary, first of all, for all the countries that have large arsenals to make a firm commitment not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons on this continent." Liu Pu emphasized that Latin America must demand that the superpowers dismantle all foreign military bases in the region and prohibit the establishment of any new military bases, as well as prohibit the passage of nuclear weapons carriers through Latin American territory, territorial seas or airspace.

The Chinese delegate said finally that his country supports small- and medium-sized countries in their demand for increased international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE OF 25 CONFIRMS PROTEST DAY

PY252056 Paris AFP in Spanish 1940 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (AFP)--In a communique issued this afternoon, the Provisional Committee of 25 reasserted that the national 24-hour protest will be carried out on Friday, and demanded the immediate release of the arrested Argentine union leaders. While the members of the board of directors of the 25--one of the two groups that share leadership of the Argentine labor movement--remained under arrest, a provisional committee which, according to union sources was formed on Tuesday, has taken charge of union activities.

In the communique, the provisional committee "declares that the day of protest is intended only to defend the achievements of the workers...and expresses to the business sector that this day of protest does not have any other underlying intent. Since they and the workers are common victims of economic aggression by national production sources."

The communique also addresses the armed forces, "deeply regretting that the economic policy forces them to take this decision," and also addresses the Catholic Church, expressing confidence that "it understands the increasing needs that have driven the workers to this measure."

The text concludes with the statement that "its faith in the victory of labor forces will never weaken."

Status of Arrested Leaders

PY251552 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1510 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (NA)--Seven union leaders who are members of the group under arrest have been released, but the main leaders of the Committee of 25 have been transferred to the new jail for defendants (former Caseros jail), a fact which would confirm that these leaders have been put at the disposal of the executive branch.

Meanwhile, the "Provisional Committee" of 25, which replaced the members of this group under arrest, continued today with negotiations to secure the release of their leaders after confirming that the "day of protest" will still be held the day after tomorrow.

Regarding the members of the executive board of the Committee of 25, who have been held incommunicado since yesterday, it was learned that before they were transferred to Caseros they confirmed during police interrogation the call for a day of protest Friday. It was learned that the leaders of the 25 were subjected to the same interrogation on six points which they had on Monday night when they were called to the National Labor Relations Directorate. At that time, the leaders requested 48 hours to answer, but it now has been learned that they confirmed to the police that they belonged to the committee and they had called a "day of protest."

UNIONS ISSUE DECLARATION SUPPORTING UNITY

PY251305 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1940 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Text] La Plata, 24 Apr (NA)--The work committee of the unions of La Plata, Berisso and Ensenada have expressed their support for the negotiations--which are now at a standstill--to achieve unity of all unions. In a document, the committee states that "the labor movement is going through a period in which it is evident again that nothing bascially can stand in the way of the unshakable unity of the labor movement."

The declaration, which comments on issues related to the workers' interests, also refers to union unity and emphasizes that unity "can in no way mean denying the right to dissent but, instead, strengthening that right."

Commenting on the present economic situation, the document states that "while the index of the cost of living increases every month, wages are scheduled to be adjusted 4 percent monthly, and therefore the people's purchasing power continues to decrease."

Finally, the document refers to the proposed reform of the law on social works which, if implemented, may result in a true expropriation of and undeserved aggression against the interests of the country's working class."

PASTOR DISCUSSES NUCLEAR ENERGY, OTHER ISSUES

PA230410 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2341 GMT 22 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (NA)--Foreign Relations and Worship Minister Carlos Washington Pastor has reiterated that Argentina has "the right to develop its nuclear energy resources as much as possible without facing external obstacles of a discriminatory nature," and added that "we want to join" the energy development "club" rather than the "club of those who have obtained nuclear military power." In an interview published today by the Catholic weekly (?ESQUIU), the foreign minister also affirmed that our desire for peace is unequivocal both by tradition and by conviction.

Regarding exploitation of the natural resources in the River Plate Basin, Pastor said, "Argentina reiterates the need to exploit those resources in a broad and harmonious manner; that is, we affirm that no country can impose its own exclusive interests on a priority basis, and no one resource can exclude the exploitation of other important resources." "For instance, exploitation of hydroelectric resources cannot exclude the possibility of navigation or other similar development," he explained, adding that "in the case of Itaipu our stand is firm and clear: We want that admirable project to be constructed, but with respect for the interests of our country, which receives the Parana River further down as the lifeline of our humid pampa."

Regarding relations with Brazil, Pastor said, "We believe they are entering a better stage in the negotiations; I am optimistic, and with reason. Our recent note updates and explains our stand on past negotiations." "Sometimes a clear explanation is necessary in order to begin a new stage of negotiations under better conditions and with greater clarity," Pastor said. "On the threshold of the new century, I believe neither Brazilians nor Argentines want to enter it with a burden of geopolitical ideas of the 19th century. Any conflict situation between sister nations is irrational."

Referring to the development of nuclear energy in Argentina, the foreign minister stated that "our country's stand on this fundamental aspect of our technological development in the nuclear area is summed up in our firm determination to achieve full independence regarding the fuel cycle."

Pastor added that financing has been granted to Bolivia so it can "obtain barges and towboats to form barge convoys, which are needed in order to sail from Puerto Suarez to our country's free zone at Rosario." This step is important for Bolivia, which "can use the river to get to the Atlantic from an important part of its own territory.

GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE 1 MAY LABOR MARCH

FY260152 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Apr 79 FY

[Text] The labor minister has asserted that the government will provide the broadest guarantees possible for the labor march on 1 May. He requested, however, that labor organizations refrain from political activities on that day in order not to disrupt the march.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN FUEL PRICES

FY261256 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0207 GMT 26 Apr 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 25 Apr (LATIN)--The military government junta has announced implementation of economic measures which, according to unofficial reports, will affect the general structure of the cost of living in Bolivia.

The minister of energy and hydrocarbons, Col Mario Candia Navarro, announced that "the prices of fuels on the domestic market, including aviation gasoline, will soon be increased."

Local radio stations today reported an alleged government decision to grant a general wage and salary increase to "lessen the side effects." "By adjusting the prices of gasoline in particular, the commercial and private transportation sectors will be the most affected," a drivers union leader told LATIN today. This sector is studying a demand for an increase in fares.

CHILEAN CP SUPPORTS SOLUTION TO LANDLOCKED PROBLEM

FY241836 Paris AFP in Spanish 1821 GMT 24 Apr 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Apr (AFP)--The Chilean Communist Party has sent a note to the Bolivian Communist Party supporting a solution to Bolivia's landlocked problem. The message has been sent on the occasion of the fourth congress of Bolivian communists and says: "We Chilean communists reiterate our position of searching for a satisfactory and positive solution to Bolivian maritime aspirations, based on peaceful negotiations and with the participation of the people."

FORMER MINISTER REINSTATED IN ARMED FORCES

FY260151 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Apr 79 FY

[Text] Gen Guillermo Jimenez Gallo, former minister of the interior and of energy and hydrocarbons, has been reinstated in the armed forces. He and five other generals had been forced into retirement by decision of the military. The chief of staff, Gen Victor Castillo, announced the decision and added that General Jimenez was the only one of the generals to present a formal request for reconsideration of the measure, and proved that he was not involved in political activities.

BRIEFS

LITHIUM DEPOSITS--Gigantic discoveries of lithium were made in Bolivia by French and Bolivian researchers who were exploring several regions in the department of La Paz. These explorations were being made in accordance with the cooperation and technical assistance agreement between the greater University of San Andres and the Office de la Recherche Scientifique Technique Outre Mer of France through the Geodynamic and Limnology Institute. [La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0544 GMT 24 Apr 79 FY]

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH U.S.

PY 260303 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Apr 79 p 6 PY

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro stated yesterday that relations between the United States and Brazil are excellent, even though the policies of the two countries in the field of nuclear energy have not changed. "In the end, overall considerations prevail over specific problems and an atmosphere of mutual trust has been reestablished."

He said Ambassador Azeredo da Silveira's appointment to Washington was an excellent choice by President Figueiredo. "The fact that he was foreign minister when things were difficult will not have a negative effect on today's excellent relations. On the contrary, thanks to his knowledge of all the aspects of that difficult period, he will be able to do a good job in improving current relations."

Guerreiro made it a point to emphasize that Brazil does not agree with the U.S. nuclear policy on utilization of a certain type of technology for peaceful purposes. "We have a firm and coherent policy against proliferation of nuclear weapons. Brazil signed and ratified the Tlatelolco treaty, which advocated the denuclearization of Latin America, and will not carry out any action that could jeopardize the objectives of this treaty."

The foreign minister stated that the problem over nuclear policy between Brazil and the United States is the result of the general attitude of the Carter administration. "There was no intent of singling out Brazil in a display of ill will. The proof is that we did not change our guidelines and the U.S. Government understood that there was nothing it could do in this regard."

A journalist asked: "And what about domestic pressures? After the relaxation, many people have expressed their opposition to the nuclear accord with the FRG." The minister answered that "when Brazil signs an international treaty, it means to carry it through. We are a trustworthy partner, and our history does not record any examples of ill will in connection with commitments undertaken with other countries."

GDR GROUP TO ANALYZE DECLINE IN BRAZIL TRADE

PY251250 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Apr 79 p 26 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Brazil and the GDR will examine today at governmental level the reasons for the decline in trade between the two countries last year after it had experienced an increase of up to 30 percent annually.

After making commercial contacts with firms in Sao Paulo, the GDR delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Wilhelm Batian will hold meetings today in Brasilia with Marcos Amorim, secretary general of the Planning Ministry; Joao Paulo do Rio Branco, president of the European Trade Commission at Itamaraty; Rubens Barbosa, Itamaraty's coordinator of the memorandum of understanding on the Brazilian-GDR trade package; and Jose Botafogo, coordinator of international affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture. Later today the delegation will leave for Rio de Janeiro to make contact with representatives of INTERBRAS tomorrow.

In Eastern Europe the GDR is Brazil's third largest trade partner, with a share of 11 percent, following Poland and the Soviet Union.

FIGUEIREDO WANTS UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHURCH, STATE

PY250132 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia--President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo has sent a message congratulating Cardinal Ivo Lorscheiter on his appointment as chairman of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops. He expressed hope that relations between the government and the church will evolve in the usual atmosphere of understanding and good will, for the benefit of our fatherland and our faith. The message was released this afternoon by Planalto Palace.

CEILING FIRM ON ABC REGION SALARY HIKES

PY251245 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Apr 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Alberto Villares, coordinator general of the group of businessmen that is negotiating with the metalworkers of the ABC region, revealed yesterday that "the government will freeze for a year loans to enterprises that give salary hikes above 63 percent to the workers." From the time the strike erupted this ceiling has been the main reason for the deadlock in the negotiations.

"The times in which we live have no room for political or revolutionary strikes," said Labor Minister Murilo Macedo in Sao Paulo. He believes "a strike for strike's sake has no room in the modern labor movement, which has nothing in common with the revolutionary labor movement. The modern labor movement is nonpolitical and must be nonpolitical." He added that should there be more strikes, the law will be enforced.

Almost 7,000 teachers in the Federal District have gone on strike demanding a salary increase of 65 percent at a rally staged on the hill by the Congress. In the meantime, most of today's plenary session of the Congress was spent discussing this strike.

After meeting with the president, Senator Jarbas Passarinho reported that the president does not plan to implement repressive measures against illegal strikes, but hopes that "these demands will be presented in an orderly and sensible manner." In Rio de Janeiro, public and private teachers have threatened new strikes should their salary demands go unheeded.

SENATOR PROTESTS ARREST OF BRASILIA TEACHERS

PY260153 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[From the congressional report]

[Text] Speaking for the opposition leadership, Senator Henrique Santillo today read a note released by the Union of Teachers of the Brasilia Federal District reporting that four teachers involved in the strike were arrested today in the city of (Cama). Senator Santillo, who protested these arrests, was supported by Senator Evelasion Vieira.

BRIEFS

ANGRA 2 COSTS--The piles alone of Angra 2 will cost 2.2 billion cruzeiros--equivalent to the amount budgeted for all buildings of Angra 2 and 3, including pits, foundations and buildings. This was reported by Senator Dirceu Cardoso on the basis of data provided by Furnas Centrais Electricas. Pointing his finger at Shigeaki Ueki, Senator Cardoso accused him of building "the most beautiful nuclear plant in the world" on rotten soil. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Apr 79 PY]

PINOCHET DISCUSSES VARIOUS TOPICS AT PRESS CONFERENCE

PY260118 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Text] It is final that the government will not authorize mass street rallies on 1 May. This was confirmed by the president himself this morning. He indicated, however, that the workers may hold meetings at their union headquarters. The president also guaranteed that all measures necessary to preserve public order have been taken.

President Pinochet had breakfast with journalists at the Diego Portales building this morning. During this breakfast press conference he stated that state-owned copper companies will not be turned over to private business. He also indicated that the new auto industry code submitted for his consideration will be released next week. At the international level, the president said relations with Argentina are satisfactory, that our attitude toward Peru has been cold and that Chile does not plan to do anything about Bolivia unless Bolivia takes the first steps toward reestablishing relations.

The president emphasized that during the contacts held with Peru recently, the status of the respective ambassadors had not been discussed. I feel they want us to take the first step, the president indicated. They are keeping quiet, and so are we. [passage indistinct]

With regard to the pope's mediation, Pinochet said it would probably take some time [passage indistinct] problems. He said: As you see, relations have improved and the overall atmosphere is different from the one that prevailed in December, January and February. At the same time, Pinochet emphasized his conviction that Cardinal Antonio Samore--who is a very intelligent and skilled man, a 100-percent diplomat--will continue advocating measures aimed at relaxing tension. He also indicated that together Chile and Argentina will be able to counteract more effectively the worldwide problem of totalitarian expansion. I believe softening tension and reaching an agreement is, in fact, just a matter of time, Pinochet said.

The president pointed out that in his opinion the reactions elicited by the report by State Attorney Gustavo Chamorro are excessive. I do not want to believe that the politicians want to interfere in this way, that there is an attempt to apply pressure on the Supreme Court, Pinochet said, referring to statements attributed to officials of the U.S. State Department by some news agencies. He emphasized that he had made it a point to say nothing about the matter and had avoided contact with the chairman of the Supreme Court. He reaffirmed that this is strictly a court matter.

Concerning the U.S. AFL-CIO, Pinochet said this organization is aware of the Chilean labor plan and of the interest Chilean workers have shown in it. I must make it clear, the president emphasized, that we are not acting because of their pressure, and should they try to do something of that nature, we will react forcefully because we cannot accept anything that is being imposed on us. Our attitude must be dignified. Concerning trade relations with the United States, and loans, Pinochet said: They have left us alone. The World Bank issued a very good report on Chile yesterday.

The president also emphasized the improvement in trade relations with the PRC and indicated that the mission headed by Economy Minister Roberto Kelly has had good results. He also revealed (?details) of the sales of some products, such as 4,000 tons of cellulose.

On the situation of exiled Chileans, the president indicated that we are doing them a favor by leaving them outside and not letting them suffer, since they themselves say there are so many bad things in Chile, that there is killing in the streets and people are dying of hunger. However, they all want to come back.

[Passage indistinct] criminals trained in Cuba have entered the country on forged passports or through the mountains. He revealed that one of them was seen downtown just the other day.

Asked for his opinion of the tragic death of the army officer who was trying to defuse a terrorist bomb, President Pinochet indicated that this is proof that the terrorists are not inactive, and it also shows that the armed forces are protecting the population. The bomb could have killed two or three civilians or had even worse consequences. The officer died when he tried to throw the bomb into the river.

Pinochet went on to explain that it is difficult to clear up some cases of terrorism because the extremists operate in dispersed cells. He added that all Chilean intelligence services have stepped up their search for terrorists who are trained in Cuba and who know exactly how to operate. He indicated that they had a good knowledge of electronics because one of the bombs found had two or three time mechanisms, a magnetic tape system, a percussion system and a system that activated the charge through a change in level--that is to say, all possible systems in case one failed.

With regard to the case of teacher Nimia Jaque Pena, the president indicated that although it had been proven that she was a communist, that she had acted as a courier, and that she had brought in funds to finance political activities, certain metropolitan news media had depicted her as an innocent lady. We preferred (? as usual) to have her sent out of the country, Pinochet said.

The president further said that the requirement to ask the Carabineros for permission to discuss the affairs of other labor unions during union meetings will be lifted by 1 May. At the same time, Pinochet said he believes the government should have communications media but not newspapers, because newspapers lose their value too soon and do not have the impact one would like.

With regard to contradictory statements made by professors (Jaime Guzman) and (Manuel Sambueza) regarding the government's legitimacy, Pinochet said the government has been legitimate since 11 September 1973, when it took over at the request of the people and that this legitimacy was ratified by the national consultation of 4 January.

Further on, speaking about the remarks by certain gentlemen who in times of the popular unity helped to sink the country, the chief of state said they should be careful that they do not become hoarse all of a sudden, because they should be the last to talk.

On the circular letter released recently by Santiago Archbishop Raul Silva Henriquez, Pinochet said it was quite positive and magnificent. He emphasized that it is fully in agreement with the government's position. The Church must not allow politicians to take advantage of it, and the circular letter is in line with the pope's guidelines. It is a pity that it does not seem to have been received by the (?northern) vicariate, Pinochet added.

Concerning social welfare, the president reaffirmed his special concern over this area and announced that the changes will not be drastic because there will be a transition period. He stressed the need for these changes and indicated that the funds deposited in the various social welfare institutions will be revalued and every person will know the amount of money he has.

He said there will be no more premature retirements and the people will not be allowed to report a minimum income all their lives and raise it to the maximum during the last year. He also said multiple pensions will not be allowed either.

He stressed that the disorder prevailing in the social welfare system evidences the need for a reform so that pensions can provide the minimum required income.

The chief of state also said he had not thought about elections, or congress, or changing the deadline of the new institutionality, as had been reported by a metropolitan weekly. He emphasized that the (?Zacarillas) plan has not been changed.

He confirmed that the unemployment rate is declining and announced that studies, especially in the field of forestry and public works, are underway to solve unemployment.

Finally, when told that there are sectors which believe that it would benefit the country if the government transferred the large copper mines to private hands, General Pinochet stated: Definitely not, absolutely not. They must have lost their minds. The great mines will retain their current status, and in any new mines that are exploited the state will be a partner of those who operate them.

BRIEFS

VEHICLE PRODUCTION--The automobile industry has increased production by 10.5 percent in the last 3 months. A total of 3,465 units were assembled between January and March in comparison with 3,136 during the same period in 1978. According to information published in a financial bulletin, 39 percent of these vehicles were assembled by Fiat, 32.4 percent by Peugeot-Renault, 16 percent by General Motors and 12.6 percent by Automotriz Arica--Citroen. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 79 PY]

RESTRICTIONS ON APPLES--Santiago, Chile, 17 Apr (AFP)--Chilean Agriculture Minister Alfonso Marquez de la Plata stated today that the agreement reached by the European Common Market restricting Chilean apple imports is "unfortunate." The European bloc recently notified Chile of its decision to restrict Chilean apple imports between 25 April and 25 August to protect domestic producers. This measure will affect about 20,000 tons of fruit shipments. Marquez de la Plata also said that "this type of decision cannot be made unilaterally as long as Chile continues buying significant quantities of capital goods and other European products. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0546 GMT 18 Apr 79 PY]

AMBASSADORS DEPARTING--Vice Adm Carlos le May (ret), appointed Chilean ambassador to the Philippines, and Gen Arturo Viveros (ret), appointed ambassador to El Salvador, today held separate meetings with Chilean President Augusto Pinochet. Both diplomats, who are leaving for their posts, received final instructions from the president. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 79 PY]

INITIAL REPORT ISSUED ON BORDER KILLINGS

PA260406 Paris AFP in Spanish 2157 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 25 Apr (AFP)--Colombian congressmen today officially accused Venezuelan soldiers of the recent killings of Colombians on the border between the two countries. The first of three reports prepared by the eight members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Representatives who made an onsite inspection was made public in Bogota today.

The principal passage of the long report states: "On the reported incidents, several of which were published by the Venezuelan newspapers and are being investigated by competent Venezuelan authorities, the committee feels very certain that these are part of a long process caused by the abnormal situations described in this report, which has led several members of the (Venezuelan) National Guard and judicial technical police, or persons impersonating them, to commit assaults on Colombian citizens, resulting in the death of an undetermined but considerable number of compatriots."

Elsewhere the report affirms that "the victims have been buried at hidden sites, according to the repeated charges of Ricardo de la Roche, Colombian consul in San Carlos, Zulia State, who claims to have personally seen several of these sites and verified the presence of bodies out in the open." The report adds: "Those charges have been corroborated by many supporting statements obtained by the congressmen in La Guajira and Norte de Santander Departments" (Colombian departments bordering on Venezuela).

The sources cited by the investigating committee include Msgr Pedro Rubiano, bishop of Cucuta, who manages the city's center for immigrants, which is unique in Colombia and generally receives the Colombian citizens deported by Venezuela. The committee also affirmed that an illegal traffic of workers exists in the border area, which is promoted by Venezuelan farmers who need labor for their agricultural or livestock businesses. According to the report, the committee verified that Colombians, lured across the border by higher wages, sometimes pay several thousand bolivares to enter Venezuela illegally. Artesans, peasants and domestic servants are victims of these criminal acts.

In its conclusions, the committee made the following five recommendations to the Colombian Government: That every recourse be taken to obtain a thorough investigation in Venezuela into the recent death of Colombian citizens in that country and that those found responsible be punished accordingly; that a revision of the existing emigration and transit treaties and agreements in force between the two countries be initiated; that an information campaign be initiated to brief Colombian citizens on the conditions they can expect in Venezuela; that its border development policy be intensified with the support of the congress; and that the status of the border consulates be raised, providing them with adequate budgets and establishing the posts of labor attaches in these consulates.

Finally, the committee made an appeal to the media of both countries to deal with the problem dispassionately, but emphasized that solutions cannot be found by ignoring the problem.

MARCO VELANDIA TO LEAVE FOR FRANCE

PA251517 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Marco Antonio Velandia, who has been in asylum at the French Embassy for several weeks, will probably leave the country today now that the Colombian Government has granted him a safe-conduct. A French Embassy spokesman said in Bogota today that once they obtain reservations on an airliner, they will send Velandia to Paris. He will be accompanied by an embassy official.

The embassy spokesman added that the Colombian Government will not be able to request Velandia's extradition in the future because he is traveling under political protection granted by the French Government. There is great tension in the French Embassy today as preparations are underway for Velandia's departure within the next few hours.

ELN COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR GUERRILLA UNITY

PA261227 Paris AFP in Spanish 0244 GMT 26 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 25 Apr (AFP)--In a clandestine communique released here today, the pro-Castro National Liberation Army (ELN) issued an appeal for unity among Colombian guerrillas and rejected the government's proposed amnesty.

The ELN admitted that 10 of its top leaders have been killed in its 15 years of existence but reaffirmed that it has not been eliminated and said that it will continue the struggle after accomplishing the reorganization agreed upon in a summit conference held "somewhere in Colombia" last October. During this conference, new plans of action were formulated and the organization proceeded to criticize itself.

In this regard, it was revealed that two members of the movement, identified simply as Mario and Jorge, became traitors and renegades and by their dissident activity obliged the ELN to dismantle one of its fronts, which operated in an unidentified site in the national territory.

In the 12-page leaflet sent surreptitiously to the various communications media today, the ELN urged the other insurgent groups in Colombia--the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the Maoist Popular Liberation Army (EPL) and the 19 April Movement (M-19)--to unite in order to reach the final objective of attaining power through revolution.

Among the leaders mentioned by the clandestine leaflet are the brothers Manuel and Antonio Vasquez Castano, Jose Martinez Sepulveda and the priests Camilo Torres and Domingo Lain, the latter a Spanish citizen, all of whom died in combat.

M-19 LAWYER REPORTEDLY EXECUTED BY MOVEMENT

PA260102 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Gonzalo Nunez Navarro, one of the most important lawyers of the M-19 movement, was shot down tonight in the northern section of Bogota, according to sources within the military institutes brigade.

Nunez was said to be a member of a cell of the M-19 guerrilla movement which has been operating in Bogota in coordination with the (Produgenicos) Firm, which directs all operations by that subversive group in this capital. The sources said that Nunez Navarro was executed by the (?leaders) of the M-19 in an operation designed to silence certain persons who have given information to the military intelligence services.

BRIEFS

RAINY SEASON DAMAGE--It has been reported that heavy rains in Ibague have resulted in losses estimated at 2 million pesos. The heavy rains have washed away most of the crops in the area. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA]

EL CRONISTA DIRECTOR DIES--Ibague--Outstanding professional Diego Castilla Duran died here early this morning. He was director of EL CRONISTA and founder of the Tolima Financial Corporation. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA]

NICARAGUAN DELEGATE AT WACL SESSION ATTACKS U.S.

PY252214 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Apr 79 p 15 PY

[Excerpts] Criticism of the United States was renewed at the anticommunist congress yesterday. Orlando Montenegro, Nicaraguan national district minister, accused that large northern country of pressuring Gen Anastasio Somoza to resign. At the same time, he charged the United States with subjecting Nicaragua to a strong economic blockade.

The Nicaraguan representative spoke at the plenary session of the World Anticommunist League congress yesterday. He stated: "That big northern country, which used to be the leading anticommunist power in the world, is now tormenting my little country. Shamelessly interfering in internal affairs of a free and democratic country, the Department of State, the Pentagon, the ambassadors assigned to special missions by President Carter and President Carter himself have put pressure on General Somoza to resign.

He added that "with the excuse of assisting in the political solution of the Nicaragua problem through the OAS, the U.S. ambassador, like a new Roman praetor, tried to impose conditions that are shameful and dishonorable for the national sovereignty of Nicaragua and the dignity of its people."

He said the economic blockade the United States ordered against Nicaragua "has had a tremendous and disastrous impact on the economy of the common people." He pointed out that "the Department of State, through its representative in the International Monetary Fund, even vetoed a $40-million loan Nicaragua is entitled to as a member of the IMF."

Making reference to accusations of human rights violations in Nicaragua, he pointed out that "the human rights policy, exclusively applied only against true defenders of democracy and stanch fighters against communism, has been the Trojan horse of international communism in its attempt to discredit organizations which, like the WACL, struggle at all levels and with all energy to try an eradicate the hateful tyranny of international communism forever." He regarded Nicaragua as a barrier to the expansion of international communism in Latin America, and expressed hope that the congress will adopt practical measures for the anticommunist struggle.

Stroessner Reception

PY251449 Asuncion Television Cerro Cora in Spanish 0015 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpts] President Stroessner officially received Ku Chen Kan, honorary president of the World Anticommunist League [WACL], who was accompanied by Tsai Hung-wen, president of the Provincial Chamber of Taiwan, and ROC Ambassador Hu Hsin, in his office today.

Later, President Stroessner attended the reception given by the organizers of the WACL congress at the Hotel Casino. Delegates of the participating countries as well as other distinguished personalities were present. Those attending the meeting agreed on the interesting developments at the meeting, spoke of the subjects to be discussed, proposals made and other topics, believing that the meeting will have an important impact on the action of the WACL.

ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZES VOTING RIGHTS OF ILLITERATES

PA251210 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 24 Apr (EFE)--Peru's Constituent Assembly today recognized the right of the country's 2 million illiterates to vote by approving the chapter on the "civil rights" of the citizen. Illiterates cannot vote under the present constitution, which will be replaced by the constitution that is being drafted for promulgation in May, as a prelude to the convocation of general elections.

Recognition of this right was supported by the centrist APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] party, which is the majority party, and by leftist members of the assembly. The rightist Popular Christian Party, while not opposed to recognition of this right in itself, feels that illiterates should not vote in the elections scheduled for October because of the problems and delays that would be involved in registering them.

Peru's current population is approximately 17 million.

ECONOMY MINISTER RETURNS FROM ECLA MEETING

PY251341 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Excerpt] The economy and finance minister, Javier Silva Ruete, has returned from La Paz, Bolivia, where he attended the 18th plenary sessions of ECLA. On his return, he remarked that the fact that Peru is once again projecting its image abroad means that the country is reactivating its economic process.

DRUG-TRAFFICKING DOMINICAN DIPLOMAT EXPELLED

PA240044 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2240 GMT 23 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Apr (EFE)--Dominican diplomat Aquiles Eliseo Andujar, who was arrested at Lima airport on 11 April for smuggling drugs, was expelled from Peru today. Flanked by two Dominican policemen, who arrived in Peru to pick him up, the diplomat quickly got on the plane and refused to make any statements. Andujar arrived at the Jorge Chavez Airport in Lima accompanied by Dominican Ambassador to Peru Eduardo Garcia, who also refused to make any statements.

APRA TO NOMINATE HAYA DE LA TORRE FOR PRESIDENT

PY251319 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 79 PY

[Text] The president of the Constituent Assembly, Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, will be proclaimed as a presidential candidate on 5 May by the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA]. (Luis Alva Castro), a member of APRA, also reported that Haya de la Torre is not inactive while he is recuperating, as he is making plans to return very soon to his normal activities.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES VARIOUS ISSUES

PA251640 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 19 Apr 79 p 2-1 PA

[Article by Alfredo Palacios]

[Text] Venezuela's rights over the marine and submarine areas of the Gulf can stand up to any initiative. Therefore, they do not have to be upheld at the International Court of Justice to keep them, Foreign Minister Alberto Zambrano Velasco said.

The foreign minister appeared before a joint congressional committee on foreign policy yesterday. The chairman of the committee is Senator Edecio La Riva Araujo and the deputy chairman is Congressman Marcos Falcon Brizeno, although the position is currently being held by Congressman Luis Esteban Rey, who is serving as acting deputy chairman. Most congressmen and senators who make up the committee attended the questioning.

When the meeting--which was held behind closed doors--concluded, La Riva Araujo told reporters what had been discussed. First, he said that the matter analyzed in the meeting is of primary importance for Venezuelan foreign policy during the current 5-year constitutional period. He noted that the committee meeting was held in an open and an honest way on the part of the foreign minister.

He noted that it was a conceptual meeting in which the members of the committee presented their thoughts and ideas regarding the country's foreign policy to the minister and in which he, in turn, spelled out to them the guidelines of that policy in all respects. He said that in that respect, they agreed to support the government's foreign policy, led by Zambrano Velasco from the Foreign Ministry.

Regarding the situation with Colombia, he stated that during the analysis it was pointed out that many stages, "which could be unfairly viewed in terms of deterioration," had been overcome during the past few days.

"And I want to tell you a secret about the meeting: The letters exchanged between Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala were analyzed during the meeting. I believe that much of the optimism of the meeting is based on those letters because they reflect the statemen's approach to pending problems. This is indicative of the presidents' viewpoint that problems have solutions, that misunderstandings and discrepancies can be cleared up and that the right climate exists to look at this problem with optimism, although this does not mean that it will not be difficult. We are sure that the more difficult they are, the more resolved we will be to solve them."

The Foreign Minister

We then contacted the foreign minister to find out about his opinion on the questioning. He made statements similar to those of the committee chairman, who hoped that the two entities will work with the greatest cooperation possible.

"The countries are permanent, and foreign policy has a double meaning: On the one hand, it is permanent because it belongs to a country and, on the other, it is a historical circumstance in which a special situation develops demanding action on the basis of a particular circumstance. Consequently, foreign policy is inspired on general and imminent state principles. However, when a specific situation does arise, these principles must be treated in a special and particular manner."

[Question] Is the report on the alleged massacre of Colombians on the border ready?

[Answer] "I have had the opportunity," he noted, "of repeating that it is a preliminary investigation carried out by Venezuelan authorities, who were the ones who discovered the alleged crimes. There is a report on this, which was issued by the Foreign Ministry under the leadership of Galvani [as published] because these incidents date back to months prior to the inauguration [presumably of President Herrera Campins]. As soon as possible, we will clearly report on the results of that investigation.

Asked if he has a proposal seeking a solution to the conflict, he said that he is "absolutely at the service of the good doctrine that leads to the search for just and fair solutions between the two countries."

[Question] Did the negotiations on the marine and submarine areas conclude at the foreign ministry level and are they now at the highest level?

[Answer] "Absolutely not," he explained, surrounded by cameras and recorders. "We have always said that the best solution for these matters is through negotiation, which permits the countries to maintain direct contact with the problems and to solve them according to their own interests and at the moment and opportunity they deem convenient. A negotiation is inexhaustible from the point of view of the many possibilities for its solution.

[Question] Is it possible that the problem will be taken to the International Court at the Hague?

[Answer] "This is a problem which must be examined with great care. The existing treaties between the two countries are still in effect. A 1959 treaty on judicial settlements between the two countries still exists."

[Question] Does it mean then that Venezuela has enough documents to prove at the Hague's International Court that what Colombia claims is not true and exact?

[Answer] "Venezuela's rights can stand up to any initiative; therefore, they do not need to be upheld at the International Court of Justice to keep them."

Another newsman referred to statements made by Pedro Pablo Aguilar during a television program in which he said that Colombia has sovereignty over part of the Gulf of Venezuela. Regarding this, the foreign minister emphasized:

"There is a coast which extends from Castilletes to Punta Macoya and further up to Paraguana and to Cabo San Roman and which includes waters that have historically belonged to Venezuela and over which the country has always exerted its control and sovereignty with the acceptance and approval of all states. The area in question is under Venezuela's full sovereignty."

Regarding the meeting between Presidents Herrera and Turbay, he said that it will be held on 26 May in Cartagena and that it is to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Andean Subregional Pact.

"It is a meeting to basically examine matters relating to the Cartagena agreement. In other words, the 10 years will be reviewed and the integrationist support of the member countries will be sought. The presidents will also be able to talk about other topics of common interest to the two countries."

LAND INVASIONS IN HIDALGO STATE REPORTED

PA251402 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0847 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Huejutla, Mexico, 25 Apr (EFE)--Leaders of the Cattlemen's and Small Property Owners Union of the La Huasteca region in Hidalgo State have reported a number of land invasions, kidnapings, arson and death threats.

Ricardo Fallad, Ernestian Lira and representatives of Indians of the affected region said that thousands of hectares of farm land have been invaded during the past 48 hours, causing great tension in La Huasteca. They charged that the invaders are armed with submachineguns and rifles and that their numbers exceed the number of soldiers stationed in the region.

They also indicated that several cattlemen and peasants of the region were kidnaped and tortured by the invaders, who demanded large ransoms for their release and set fire to the ranches of those who refused to pay.

Fallad and Lira accused Mexican legislator Humberto Serrand of instigating these criminal actions, paralyzing the only productive land of Hidalgo State.

"The men who make up the invasion brigades," they said, "are Indians from other regions who have been forced at gunpoint to commit these attacks and to plunder."

The leaders said that they had met with State Governor Jorge Rojo Lugo, who told them that "we are going to remove all landowners from La Huasteca if they dare touch any peasant."

In view of this situation and if Rojo Lugo does not find a solution to the problem, the small landowners, cattlemen and peasants of La Huasteca region have announced that they will hold a march in Mexico City to make their critical situation known to President Jose Lopez Portillo.

TELEPHONE WORKERS STRIKE, GOVERNMENT INTERVENES

PA252145 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1904 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Apr (LATIN)--The government today ordered the intervention of the parastate Mexican Telephone Company (TELMEX) in an effort to reestablish telephone and microwave communications disrupted as a result of a labor union strike.

The government's intervention came minutes after 25,000 employees belonging to the Telephone Workers Union of the Mexican Republic (STRM) disconnected the system throughout the country at 1200 (1800 GMT) on orders from their labor leaders, who are demanding a 25 percent salary increase.

Only 45 minutes after the government's intervention, telephone communications were partially reestablished in this capital of 14 million. The microwave system for private and commercial lines was also partially reestablished here. However, the rest of the country is still without communications.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES UPCOMING TRIP TO WASHINGTON

PA250339 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Report on press conference with President Aristides Royo and Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella in Colon on 24 April]

[Excerpt] During the news conference, President Royo was asked about the objectives of his trip to Europe and especially, President Jimmy Carter's invitation to Washington.

[Begin Royo recording] If a head of state had to wait until there were no problems in his country before he could travel abroad, he would never be able to travel. We have problems every day. There are problems every day in every country. We are taking this trip to Europe for several reasons: In the first place, to promote our relations with those countries which have expressed special interest in recent years in Panama's economic development. These countries have also given Panama great support on the Canal issue. We are also going to exchange ideas with them and to personally thank them for their support.

We want to explain to them what it will mean to Panama to enter the former Canal Zone and how Panama will operate the Canal area and its significance for our development. We are going to fully explain to them Panama's future development and how it is going to promote the participation of European countries in this area. We are going to discuss international affairs and their support for the neutrality treaty we signed with the United States. We are going to talk about economic matters, commercial relations, the balance of payments with European countries, which is extremely unfavorable to us, and we also are going to try to open new markets for Panamanian products. This is in summary the main objectives of our trip to Europe.

I have been invited by the President of the United States to visit Washington to discuss ways of improving relations between Panama and the United States, including cooperation during the transitional period from now until 1 October and relations after this period. We have accepted the invitation and we have told the President of the United States that we are going to pay him a visit on 10 May.

[Question] We would like you to tell us if during this trip to Washington there is the possibility you may sign a document which would prevent the altering of the implementation of the treaties by the House of Representatives?

[Royo] The only document that we might sign would be a joint declaration between two heads of state. Mainly, we are going to talk about the implementation of the treaties. We are going to discuss the problems in the United States with respect to the implementation of the treaties. We will continue repeating that we have faith and that we hope that the United States will abide by the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaties in this stage of the implementation.

[Question] Mr President, what action, aside from what President Carter can do, can the Panamanian Government take, or is going to take, in view of the attitude of the House of Representatives in order that the United States comply with the international agreement?

[Royo] In the first place, we are going to tell President Carter of the concern that exists in Panama regarding the implementation of the treaties. As we have already said, we trust that the implementation will face no problems. Despite the recent proposals, we feel that the United States is going to live up to its word, which is already an international agreement approved by two countries, just like we are going to fulfill every aspect of the treaty. Evidently, there are problems in the implementation of the treaties. This we cannot deny. We are already studying the measures we will take if the implementation does not transpire.

We cannot announce them at this moment because we are still studying them, but Panama will struggle to see that the treaties are implemented. I also want to mention something that worries me. I realize that there are Panamanians here who, exercising their full rights, have opposed the treaties and have expressed their dislike for them. As a matter of fact, there are clauses, stipulations and articles in the treaties that I personally and my country never liked, nor ever can like.

In a treaty, there are good and bad aspects. There is a sort of a balance and this is a well balanced treaty. The Panamanian people said that in the plebiscite held last year. We have expressed our concern over the attitude of some persons who do not like the treaty and have opposed it. What really worries us, and really hurts, is to know that there are Panamanians--and I am saying that they are very bad Panamanians--who are trying to find ways to convince U.S. authorities--and they are willing to walk corridors and visit U.S. departments--to prevent the implementation of the treaties and to violate the letter and spirit of the treaties. They are in perfect connivance with North Americans whom we understand are opposed to the treaties and Panama's entry into the Canal Zone, and there are some Panamanians doing this. In due time we are going to announce their names. [end recording]

In the meantime, people wanted to know the government's stand on the ultimatum issued yesterday in San Felix, Chiriqui Province, by a group of persons from this province asking the government to make a statement within a month regarding the ecological effects of the exploitation of Cerro Colorado copper mines. Following was President Royo's statement:

[Begin Royo recording] At no time has the government nor Cerro Colorado Corporation refused to provide ecological data. On the contrary, I believe that the people are fully aware that the financial, economic and ecological aspects of Cerro Colorado have been explained to every organization and group that has requested it. Cerro Colorado executives will soon be going to Chiriqui Province to hold meetings with sectors that are really interested in this matter to give them the ecological information.

We do not wish to explain this now. However, we would like to ask the people of Chiriqui Province to be calm, objective and patriotic, as they have always been, because we are going to tell them nothing but the truth regarding the possible ecological problems of the mine. But please do not start giving off-the-cuff opinions opposing the exploitation of the mine if you do not know anything about the mine. [end recording]

Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella referred to the current economic situation which he considered promising.

[Begin de la Espriella recording] Although there are people who say that the economy is stagnant, the economic outlook is promising. Just the fact that a number of installations and the territory on the Canal Zone, which are going to be commercially exploited by private enterprise and create new jobs, are reverting to Panama is a good sign. Also there is the opening of Vacamonte Port facilities for which there have already been many requests for space received from private enterprise and sectors engaged in the fishing industry. The possibility that Colon will have a container port is also very promising. There are also the housing projects, which this year have increased. We must also mention the loan requests made to the National Financing Corporation (COFINA) for industrial development, plus the agreements recently signed for agriculture, the planting of cocoa, improvement of coffee plantations and oil palm development. All these are promising projects for our economy. [end recording]

'Economic Breakthrough'

PA242154 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1850 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Colon, Panama, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Panamanian President Aristides Royo gave his concerned countrymen some room for optimism when he spoke today about "signs of an economic breakthrough." I do not want the people to think there is a great bonanza but that there are signs of a breakthrough or an improvement within the framework of the world's energy crisis, the president affirmed during a news conference held in this city located on the Atlantic side, 80 km north of the capital.

For his part, Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella told the press that the Panamanian economy had grown by 3 percent in 1978 and that the growth had continued this year after several years of zero growth during the mid-seventies. The promotion of investments in Panama is among the objectives of the tour that President Royo is scheduled to begin on 26 April. The trip includes visits to Spain, France, Italy and the United States.

Panama's economy is experiencing a time of crisis due to its excessive foreign debt (approximately $2.5 billion), an unemployment figure reaching approximately 13 percent and a shortage of domestic and foreign investments. The statements made today by the president and the vice president, nonetheless, were relatively optimistic and may have some effect on the prevailing climate of discouragement.

FORMER CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRIVE

PA251226 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[Excerpts] A total of 67 former political prisoners from Cuba arrived in Panama last Sunday aboard Iberia airline flight 947. Panama is the second Latin American country which has received the Cuban exiles. Of the 67 Cubans who arrived last Sunday, 35 left the same day for Venezuela. Televisora Nacional learned from official sources that none of the exiles will stay in Panama and that our country is only serving as a base from where they will later join relatives in the United States and Venezuela.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO COSTA RICA--The National Government has just appointed Joaquin Meza I. new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Costa Rica. [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Apr 79 pp 5-8 PA]

EXPANSION OF FREE ZONE--Jose G. Montenegro, general manager of the Colon free zone, has announced that the Banco Fiduciario de Panama has granted a loan of $2.466 million to the free zone for the first phase of an expansion plan which provides for building in the zone's commercial area as well as in the old France Field area. Montenegro said that of approximately $8.5 million to be invested in the first phase of the expansion program, 80 percent will be used for the construction of 32 warehouses in the old France Field area and the rest for expansion of the present commercial area. The free zone general manager said that private enterprise has also initiated an investment program of approximately $4 million for the construction and expansion of buildings in the present commercial area and in France Field. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 25 Apr 79 pp 1-A, 12-A PA]

SUGAR HARVEST FIGURES--The Alanje sugar mill this year produced 31,059 tons of sugar which will be shipped entirely to the United States. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

INCREASED PER CAPITA INCOME--San Salvador, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Planning Minister Jose Eduardo Reyes has reported here that per capita income of Salvadorans in 1978 was 1,789 colones ($716), which is twice as much as the average income in 1973 at current prices. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1845 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA]

GUATEMALA

DELEGATION TO HEALTH MEETING--According to Foreign Ministry sources, Guatemala will be represented at the 32d world health meeting to be held in Geneva from 7 to 26 May by a delegation headed by Health Minister Roquelino Recinos. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA]

NICARAGUA

VARIOUS INCIDENTS REPORTED IN LEON, MANAGUA

PA251946 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--One dead and new armed clashes in Leon, western Nicaragua, and four killed when a bomb exploded in a Managua neighborhood, have raised the number of victims of the endless violence being experienced by Nicaragua.

Gabriel Bolanos was shot on a Leon street by unidentified individuals, who then set his taxi on fire. Bolanos burned to death since aid could not reach him in time. The taxi driver became the 22d victim of violence in Leon during the past 8 days.

Shortly after this incident, some 40 heavily armed members of the Sandinist Front entered the city aboard two station wagons. After stationing themselves in various parts of the city, they confronted the National Guard patrols. The armed clashes occurred in the neighborhoods of Subtiava, Zaragoza, El Coyolar, San Felipe, San Jose and Guadalupe. After approximately 30 minutes of clashes, the guerrillas withdrew to unknown locations, abandoning the vehicles outside the city. One of the station wagons is owned by the San Vicente Hospital and had been stolen from its driver. Numerous bullet holes were apparent on the other vehicle, a green station wagon, but there were no signs of blood.

Officials of the hospital and the Leon Red Cross indicated that they have not received any calls to take care of persons who had been wounded or killed despite the fact that there was a rumor that three Sandinists had been killed.

At the National Guard command, Col Maximiliano Perez told ACAN-EFE that what occurred yesterday was a light exchange of fire with some 15 armed individuals who entered the city and harassed a patrol which confronted them near the Indian neighborhood of Subtiava. He said there were no casualties. The army officer denied that aviation or an armored car was used to repel the armed group, as some Leon and Managua news media had reported.

However, it was confirmed that three soldiers were sent to the Managua military hospital after they were injured on Monday night when their jeep overturned as it was pursuing an insurgent group on a Leon street.

Meanwhile, the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN), which is located in Leon, yesterday joined the strike called by 10 private, religious and public secondary schools to protest military repression and the lack of guarantees for the lives of students. A communique of the student leadership of those schools, supported by the association of UNAN professors, the association of teachers of Leon, directors of institutes and parents, condemns the National Guard's policy of killing the youth and children of Leon.

In the communique, they also protest against what the National Guard describes as "clashes," but which in reality are treacherous and criminal assassinations that are committed every day by the army patrols in complete disregard of human life.

Meanwhile, four members of a family, including two children, died here last night from injuries sustained when a contact bomb exploded in their house. One of the children of the Sequeira family, residing in the poor neighborhood of Loma Linda in southern Managua, found the bomb and, believing it was a ball, took it to his house where it exploded, killing four persons and injuring two others.

In the Sabana Grande sector of eastern Managua, another group of armed youths clashed with police patrols but were able to escape without sustaining any casualties. A helicopter overflew the area in an effort to find the alleged Sandinists but it is not known if the mission was successful.

Leon Commander Comment

PA241500 Paris AFP in Spanish 1322 GMT 24 Apr 79 PA

[By special AFP correspondent Beatrix Denis]

[Excerpts] Leon, Nicaragua, 24 Apr (AFP)--The repression in Nicaragua, after last week's Sandinist offensive, increases every day through "clean up" operations, the victims of which are mostly youths, relatives of those killed charged in Leon today. The killing of 4 Leon residents whose ages ranged from 18 to 22 was reported today. This special correspondent saw the body of one of them, Rolando Telles, a law school student who was 20 years of age.

In an interview with AFP, Leon Commander Gen Gonzalo Evertz admitted for his part that 18 persons were killed over the past few days in this city, located 90 km west of Managua, and that 5 of them were National Guardsmen. The military chief, who served in the southern city of Rivas during last year's insurrection and became prominent in the repression throughout the Nicaraguan countryside under the pseudonym of "Vulcano," admitted, according to reliable sources, that youths are dying in Nicaragua every day by the actions of government troops.

Asked about the causes for the rebellion in the country, he admitted that the government of Anastasio Somoza has had to spend large amounts of money in order to improve its weaponry, "public funds which could have been used for programs for progress," he said. Sometimes, "the Liberal Party (in power) politicians, instead of helping the National Guard in solving the problems, cause them," the military officer complained. However, he immediately added that if they continue to be united for a long period, "it could be decisive for the country."

Regarding a possible coup d'etat by the army, he noted that it was a rumor promoted by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] "in order to justify its actions." He confirmed that "Leonides Laguna, 42 years of age, father of 6 children, was killed because they suspected he was one of the main FSLN members."

Meanwhile, the association of parents, principals, teachers and students of seven Leon schools issued a statement against what it described as "the hateful and savage hunt being carried out by the National Guard against local youths and children."

"We publicly protest and deplore the presence of Commander Gonzalo Evertz in our city. The patrols under his command kill, torture and violate the rights of the persons," the statement added. The association in question also announced a strike that will begin on Monday and will last through 1 May as a measure to protest this situation.

Leon Bishop's Letter to Somoza

PA260420 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Letter from Leon Bishop Monsignor Manuel Salazar y Espinoza, president of Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, to President Anastasio Somoza; date and place not given--read by Pablo Candia in Nicaragua]

[Excerpts] Mr President of the Republic, Div Gen Anastasio Somoza, Presidential House, Managua:

Mr President, I am using the information media since I have no other means of communicating with your excellency. I want to appeal to your civic spirit to request your intervention to halt the violent situation in this city. As pastor of this community, I also have the sacred duty of watching over all aspects of human life. It is possible that my action today will provoke new accusations against the church, but we can no longer allow death to continue reaping the lives of men without a trial of any kind and allow only the law of the jungle to prevail. We are now living in a lawless situation.

This city is today living the worst days in its history. No one is safe. It is a dead, occupied city. The troops patrol the streets sowing terror and death, and not even children are safe. What has happened? Are we going mad? Is it that the law of the jungle must be applied to the people of Leon? Is there no law or religion to respect? Can the country's problems be solved only by killing? Why not sit down at the table like friends and countrymen and seek the means of civilized men?

Mr President, you have nothing to lose by demonstrating generosity. Everything in this life comes to an end; only our good deeds will follow us into eternity. I hope you pay attention to the sorrowful heart of this pastor who calls for mercy so that death returns to its somber domain and does not walk freely in our streets reaping the life of Nicaraguans who want to live under the loving gaze of God and the protection of the mother of men, Holy Mary.

Respectfully, with the Lord: Monsignor Manuel Salazar Espinoza, bishop of Leon and president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference.

Further Reportage

PA252140 Paris AFP in Spanish 1859 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[By Horacio Ruiz]

[Excerpts] Managua, 25 Apr (AFP)--Adolfo Evertzs, one of the main leaders of the Broad Opposition Front [FAO], was attacked last night by five persons in the southeast sector of Managua. Evertzs, who represents one of the two groups of the Socialist Party of Nicaragua participating in the opposition alliance, was able to escape unharmed although he was shot at twice.

The opposition leader blamed government parliamentary elements for the attack. Meanwhile, the wave of violence continues in Managua and in other cities in the country.

Managua's archbishop, Msgr Miguel Obando held a meeting today with the recently formed National Reflection Front [Frente Nacional de Reflexion]. The front, sponsored by the religious leader, is trying to organize a national board that will include members of congress and at least four army officers to search for a formula to end the violence.

PRD LEADER ADMITS COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS UNSOLVED

FL242245 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], has admitted that the country's economic and social problems still have not been solved. The PRD leader added, however, that the 8 months that the government of President Guzman has been in power have not been enough to solve all such problems.

Pena Gomez stressed that contrary to Central American and South American countries, the freedoms and personal safety of citizens are respected in the Dominican Republic. He emphasized that being a communist in this country is no longer a crime deserving imprisonment or death. He likewise added that there are no prisoners [presumably political] or persecuted persons. We have an oasis of liberty in an America shaken by barbaric crimes, the PRD leader asserted in a statement on the "Tribuna Democratica" radio program, a PRD official organ.

30 DROWN, DANAGE HEAVY IN EXTENSIVE FLOODING

PA251221 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0354 GMT 25 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 24 Apr (EFE)--It is believed that approximately 30 persons have drowned as a result of the flooding of several rivers in the northern, northwestern, eastern and southern regions of the country, where damage to agriculture and highways is estimated in the millions. Due to the alarming situation, President Antonio Guzman made a tour by helicopter to inspect several areas to verify the damage caused by the rains and the flooding of rivers.

Several towns have been completely isolated, and from the air one can see vast areas of the country covered by water. It has not been possible to evaluate the amount of the damage so far, but Agriculture has estimated that the death of farm animals and destroyed harvests could reach several million dollars.

In a preliminary report, Public Works reported that the water has washed away bridges, highways and roads, making the damage in this sector incalculable for the time being.

By presidential order, units of the army, police and civil defense, firemen and civilian volunteers are helping the victims. More than 10,000 persons have been forced to abandon their homes in search of safer places. Private and government entities are collecting aid for the victims, including food, clothing and medicines.

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA CONTINUES OFFICIAL AUSTRIA VISIT

FL251744 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Vienna--Rudolf Kirchshlaeger, president of the Federal Republic of Austria, has expressed his wishes that the nonalined countries sixth summit, which will be held in September 1979 in Havana, will be a great success. Kirchschlaeger made this statement during the meeting he had yesterday in Vienna with Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister, who is on a 4-day official visit to Austria. The meeting between Kirchschlaeger and Malmierca took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, according to Cuban delegation spokesmen who briefed PRENSA LATINA. Yesterday, Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr hosted a luncheon to honor Malmierca and his entourage. In his remarks, Pahr stressed the achievements made by Cuba in the field of public health and education. Pahr also stated that the Caribbean island was reborn in 1959, and he toasted to the health of Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers.

HELSINKI ANNOUNCES MALMIERCA TO VISIT FINLAND 2-7 MAY

FL242344 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2341 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca will visit Finland from 2 to 7 May at the invitation of his Finnish counterpart Paavo Vayrynen, it was reported today in Helsinki, the capital of that Scandinavian country. According to the announcement, published by all newspapers and carried by Finnish radio and television, the Cuban foreign minister will hold talks with Vayrynen and will meet with President Urho Kekkonen and Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa.

BOGOTA RADIO REPORTS RAUL CASTRO TO VISIT COLOMBIA

PA260426 Paris AFP in Spanish 0251 GMT 26 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 25 Apr (AFP)--The Caracol radio network reported here today that Cuban Defense Minister Raul Castro will soon visit Colombia. Fidel Castro's brother will arrive on Friday in Valledupar, capital of Cesar Department, in the northern part of the country, for a 3-day visit to attend the region's Vallenata Music Festival, which has recently acquired international prominence. This first visit by a Cuban leader since Castro came to power has not been confirmed so far by either Colombian or Cuban authorities.

CONSTRUCTION MINISTER FARAH SIGNS PROTOCOL IN TRIPOLI

FL252206 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Tripoli--Libyan Housing Secretary Muhammad al-Manqush has received Levi Farah, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Construction. They examined the existing construction cooperation agreement between the two countries. At the end of their talks, al-Manqush and Farah signed a Cuban-Libyan protocol, according to an announcement of the Libyan news agency.

FERNANDEZ FONT DELIVERS NONALINED INVITATION TO YASIR 'ARAFAT

FL251144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian resistance, has received Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez Font, who delivered an invitation to the sixth nonalined summit in the name of President Fidel Castro.

The PLO Executive Committee president also received a personal message from the leader of the Cuban Revolution.

At the meeting, 'Arafat stressed the importance the upcoming [nonalined] summit in Havana has for his organization and extensively explained the situation in the Middle East. He then thanked Minister Fernandez Font for the support shown by our revolution for the Palestinian people and sent a verbal message to President Fidel Castro. 'Arafat reiterated the decision to firmly continue the struggle in the face of imperialist attacks.

FIDEL CASTRO SENDS MESSAGE TO WPC COUNCIL MEETING IN PRAGUE

FL242326 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a message of support to the World Peace Council [WPC] meeting that opened today in Prague, the Czechoslovak capital. The message, read by Francisco Astray Rodriguez, who heads the Cuban delegation, was applauded by the representatives of more than 100 countries participating in the meeting.

The message highlights the importance of the WPC in the struggle against the arms race and for maintaining peaceful coexistence and international detente. It adds that the commemoration of the 30th founding anniversary of the WPC is taking place at a time when mankind has the vital task of overcoming the risks of a nuclear war. The message expresses the need to put an end to the accumulation of extermination weapons and to use the billions of dollars spent for military purposes to solve the problems of underdevelopment, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and disease.

Fidel states in his message that the Cuban Revolution has welcomed the solidary warmth of the WPC and has always counted on the broadest WPC support in the face of acts of aggression by the imperialists and of Cuban demands for an end to the blockade imposed against our people by the United States.

SEVERE FLOODING REPORTED IN PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE

FL251154 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] The loss of three lives, the evacuation of close to 3,000 people and the paralysis of all agricultural activities are the results of the strong rains that have been affecting Pinar del Rio Province. Over the last 24 hours, an average of 300 millimeters of water have fallen in that western region of the country. The municipalities of Guane, Vinales and Bahia Honda and other towns in that area are cut off from land communication. The municipal directorates of the civil defense are carrying out measures in accordance with the procedures set up for natural disasters. The students at the rural schools have not been in danger at any time, and all are at their respective schools.

BARBADOS

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH VATICAN

FL241720 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Apr 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Barbados and the Vatican yesterday established diplomatic ties as the government continued its policy of broadening its diplomatic contacts. The move to strengthen relations with the Holy See is also an acknowledgement of the need to maintain and facilitate good relations between church and state, a government spokesman said yesterday. A communique published simultaneously in the Holy See and Bridgetown said:

"The State of Barbados and the Holy See, being desirous of strengthening their bonds of friendship, have decided of common accord to establish diplomatic relations with each other at ambassadorial and apostolic nuncio level."

The Vatican is the centre of the world organisation of the Roman Catholic Church and maintains diplomatic relations with a wide representation of states, Catholic and non-Catholic, throughout the world.

Barbados has not yet named any ambassador to the Vatican, but a source in the Ministry of External Affairs has stated that the island's high commissioner in London, Mr Cecil Williams, will most likely be accredited to the Vatican. It has pointed out that he is already accredited to a number of EEC countries, and since the Vatican is in this area, he is likely to look after affairs there--at least initially.

GRENADA

BISHOP ON RELEASE OF GAIRY GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

FL251603 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said yesterday's release of (?14) members and supporters of the former Gairy regime was done in the interest of national unity. In a broadcast (?over) Radio Free Grenada, Mr Bishop said that (?anything) speeding up the achievement of the fullest national unity would be desirable, and he noted that the release of people held in protective custody would help speed up the process.

The prime minister disclosed that the detainees will be returned to normal society, (?and) he warned that members of the People's Revolutionary Army will be monitoring their movements for any sign of antirevolutionary activities. The leader of the Revolutionary Grenadian Government also disclosed that so far, more than 150 people who were detained in the overthrow of Gairy last month have now been released. This, Mr Bishop said, was because they were no longer considered a threat to the new revolutionary administration.

CCC TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AID

FL251616 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Apr 79 FL

[Text] The Caribbean Conference of Churches [CCC] is to provide both financial and technical assistance to the provisional revolutionary government in Grenada. The churches' decision follows discussions held between representatives of the Bishop government and two separate teams from the region's eucumenical movement. Details of the aid proposals were not disclosed.

The church leaders have met with the Grenada Conference of Churches [and] Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, as well as political detainees. The CCC officials were told that the Grenadian (?churchmen) were impressed with the discipline of the armed forces and the calm and dignity with which the new administration was carrying out its business.

The Conference of Churches also noted Prime Minister Bishop's statement about returning [words indistinct] and for freedom of religion and [words indistinct] were impressed by the charity demonstrated so far towards political opponents.

JAMAICA

MANLEY COMMENTS ON PUBLIC REACTION TO USSR VISIT

FL241650 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Apr 79 p 8 FL

[Text] Note: Before stating what happened in Moscow at his press conference on Monday, April 16, Mr Manley spoke on the background to his visit. Mr Manley made no mention of the March opinion poll conducted by Dr Carl Stone, which stated that 45 per cent of the people were against Mr Manley's visit, 33.7 per cent in favour, and 21.3 per cent without views. But Dr Stone's poll, conducted between March 22 and March 29, was published on Sunday, April 8, in the [prime minister's] absence. Here is what Mr Manley said on April 16:

Background to Visit

Before my departure for Moscow, I stated with absolute clarity the objectives of the visit. I now remind the people of Jamaica that these were "to discuss a wide range of international and bilateral questions with the Soviet leaders. The international questions include the new international economic order, detente, developments in Southern Africa, developments in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and Indochina. At the bilateral level, the discussions will be concerned with areas of economic cooperation and trade between Jamaica and the Soviet Union. Specifically, the two countries will examine economic collaboration in alumina, the sale of bauxite and alumina to the Soviet Union, commodity trading and areas of technical assistance."

Secondly, in the face of the existing situation in the country, I tried to focus our national efforts on what I regarded to be our most urgent national priority.

"At this time of national difficulty, I am absolutely satisfied that it is necessary and that the time is ripe for all the elements in the society to cooperate to try to find the answers to our many problems. The work to develop a social contract is, perhaps, the most important single effort that we can now undertake."

Quite predictably, the overwhelming majority of the people understood and enthusiastically supported these positions. I thank them for their continuing confidence and patience. Also quite predictably, a minority immediately launched a campaign to prejudice the success of the visit. Some described it as a circus. Others went out of their way to suggest that the leaders of the Soviet Union had no interest in these questions. Then of course there were the insinuation that the delegation was too large, that it was a waste of taxpayers' money. All this against the background of the most strident anticommunist hysteria. Then it seems some of these people started to get wind of the fact that our discussions and our activities in the Soviet Union were being conducted in a positive manner. They began to change their line in anticipation of possible successes. The new line was that it was no longer a circus, but any positive achievements from the trip was tantamount to our selling our souls.

JFL DEMANDS REPORT ON POLITICAL SIDE OF MANLEY'S USSR TALKS

FL241655 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Apr 79 p 8 FL

[Text] The Jamaica Freedom League [JFL], an affiliate of the Jamaica Labour Party, claims that Prime Minister Michael Manley had not reported on the political side of his visit to the Soviet Union. The league, in a news release dated Tuesday, said much had been made about the success of the economic team, but nothing had been said about the activities of the political team.

The release in part said:

"The Jamaica Freedom League notes that at the rally held to welcome him home from his visit to the Soviet Union the prime minister mentioned that two teams had accompanied him on the trip: one economic, the other political.

However, while much ado has been made about the success of the economic team, nothing has been said about the activities in the Soviet Union of the political team led by Information and Culture Minister Mr Arnold Bertram.

As a result, the league is demanding a report on this aspect of the trip, since it is anxious to hear about the matters discussed by this team. At the same time, the league cannot but make the observation that the failure to give a public report on the discussions held by the political team suggests that the team's mission in Moscow was more of a party than of a governmental nature. This raises the question as to who finances that team's visit. Was it the government of the PNP [Peoples National Party]?

The league said it was also alarmed and surprised to hear the prime minister at the rally refer more than once to a government employee, Trade Administrator Dr Headley Brown, as "comrade," using PNP title. "However, it might be of interest to note that this very 'comrade' heads a very sensitive government department, which is currently under fire for alleged corrupt practices," the JFL release ended.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT TO DICTATE OIL PRODUCTION RATE

FL241710 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Apr 79 p 9 FL

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 19 Apr (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago will ensure that there is no unwarranted drop in petroleum production levels and that oil companies operating here are not allowed to dictate the pace, Mr Errol Mahabir, minister of petroleum and mines, warned Tuesday night.

Mr Mahabir's comment came as he addressed a general meeting of the Association of Petroleum Engineers in San Fernando, south Trinidad.

In an off-the-cuff speech, the minister said that government could not permit a decline of production because "of its critical and crucial importance in the social and economic development of the country."

Government, he said, acknowledged that the oil companies would have problems and was conscious too that there was need to streamline the organisation that would deal with the petroleum and energy-based industries now being developed in the country. To that end, he promised, government would be willing to consider the problems involved and to hold discussions to find solutions.

The Trinidad and Tobago Cabinet, Mr Mahabir said, has also given consideration to the possible role of the "still-born" national petroleum company which, he said, had now been superseded by tremendous development programme over the last few years.

The government has agreed to establishment of a national energy corporation with an initial authorised share capital of [Trinidad and Tobago] $100 million to provide the guiding functions for development of the energy-based industries.

Modern forecasts, said Mr Mahabir, suggest that world crude oil production would reach a plateau in the 1980's and then level off before a decline in the 1990's. The forecast for Trinidad and Tobago, however, was for a ten per cent decline during this year of the average production of 212,000 barrels a day.

The minister said that it was imperative that the search for new oil sources in Trinidad and Tobago should continue. To that extent his ministry was now considering proposals to encourage oil companies to engage in additional exploratory work, particularly in the deeper waters off shore, as well as on land.

The ideal production figure for Trinidad and Tobago would be a minimum of 200,000 barrels a day for the next 15 years, he said. That would provide the revenue necessary to finance the social and economic development of Trinidad and Tobago, said Mr Mahabir.

Similarly, he told the oil experts, a natural gas production of 1,200 million cubic feet from 1985 would be the level needed to meet the domestic and industrial needs of the country.

Speaking in Parliament a few weeks ago, Mr Mahabir said that Trinidad and Tobago had proven gas reserves to meet the country's needs for some 40 years.

Mr Mahabir told the engineers that he was not prepared to discuss taxation as it applies to oil companies. But he reminded that in some other countries such taxes were as high as 85 per cent.

The minister also disclosed that a team of experts from Trinidad and Tobago visited Barbados recently to study the available data there, to see to what extent this country could help Barbados in oil exploration there. Barbados has been providing small quantities of crude for several years now from wells operated by an American company that is now preparing to sell out.